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Bogdan

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[54] **SYSTEM-PROVIDED WINDOW ELEMENTS
 HAVING ADJUSTABLE DIMENSIONS**

[75] **Inventor:** Jeffrey L. Bogdan, Kirkland, Wash.

[73] **Assignee:** Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Wash.

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** 345/334; 345/342; 345/523;
 345/439; 709/302

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 395/159, 155, 156, 161, 139; 345/119,
 131, 127, 334, 333, 335, 342, 340, 343,
 339, 439, 525, 523, 522; 709/302, 300

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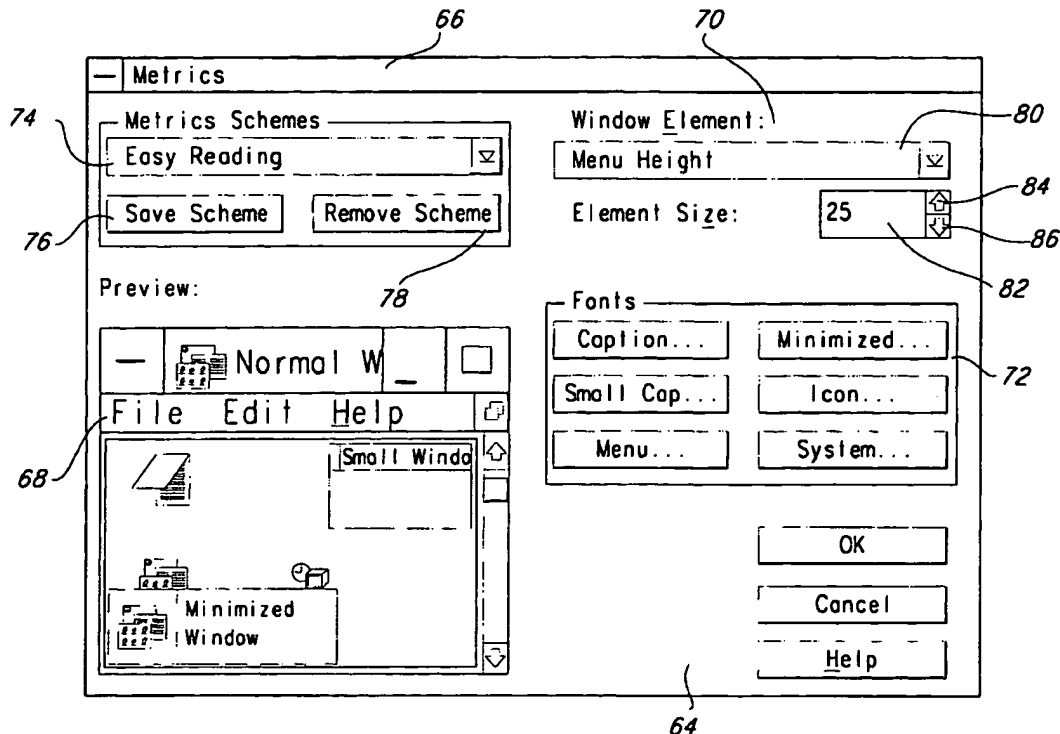
Primary Examiner—Raymond J. Bayerl

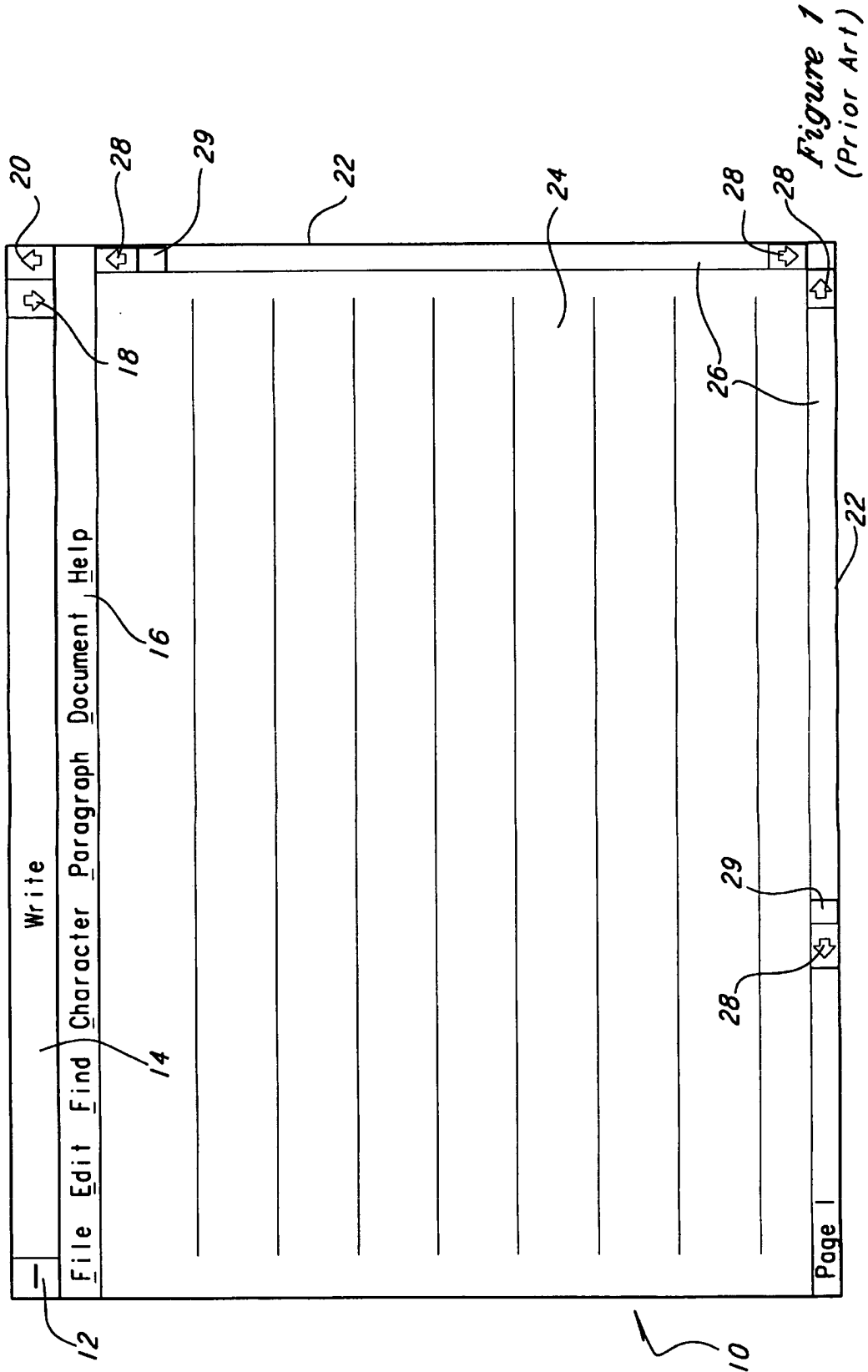
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Christensen O'Connor Johnson & Kindness PLLC

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An operating system provides a number of window elements that the operating system itself or applications may use in displaying a window. The operating system includes a dialog box for enabling a user to adjust the individual sizes of the respective window elements independently of the size of the window. The bitmaps for the window elements are stored in a cache that is re-drawn each time the user changes the size of any of the window elements.

32 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets





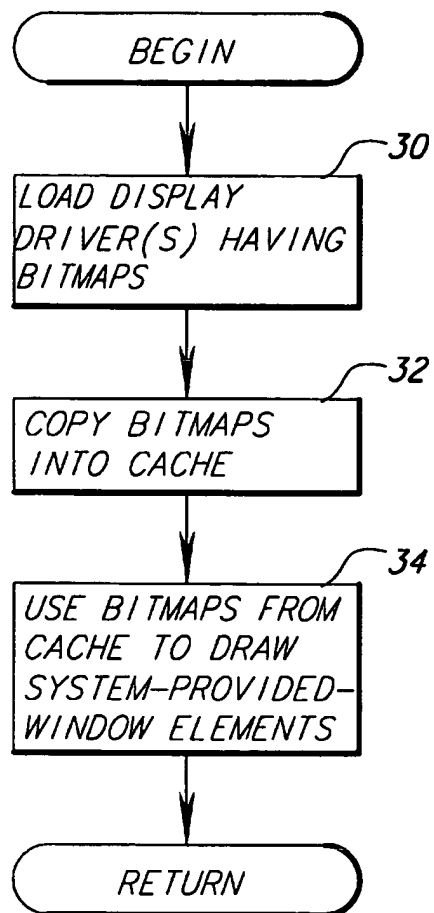


Figure 2
(PRIOR ART)

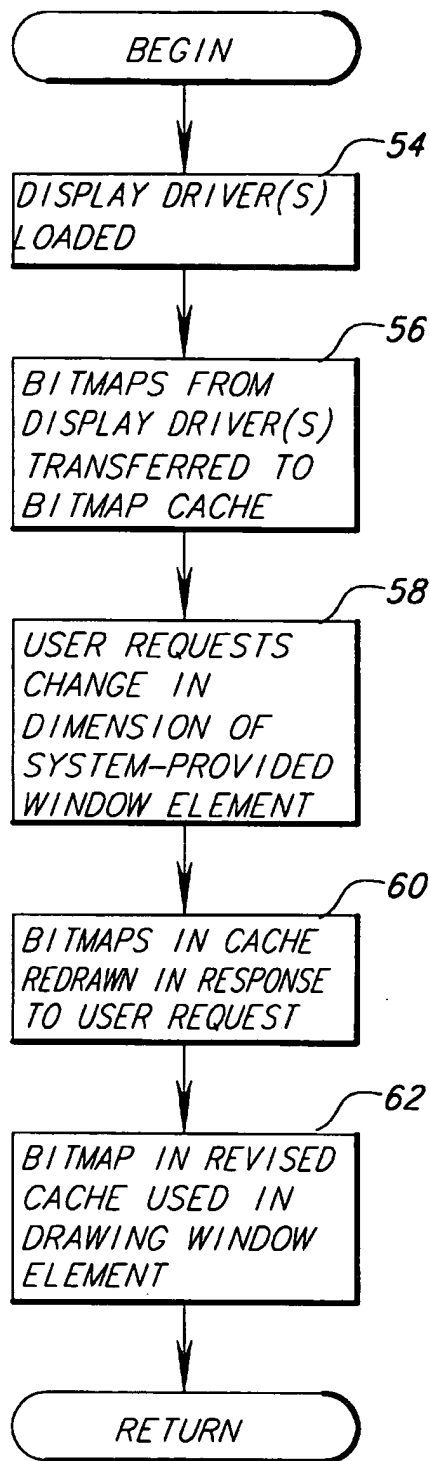
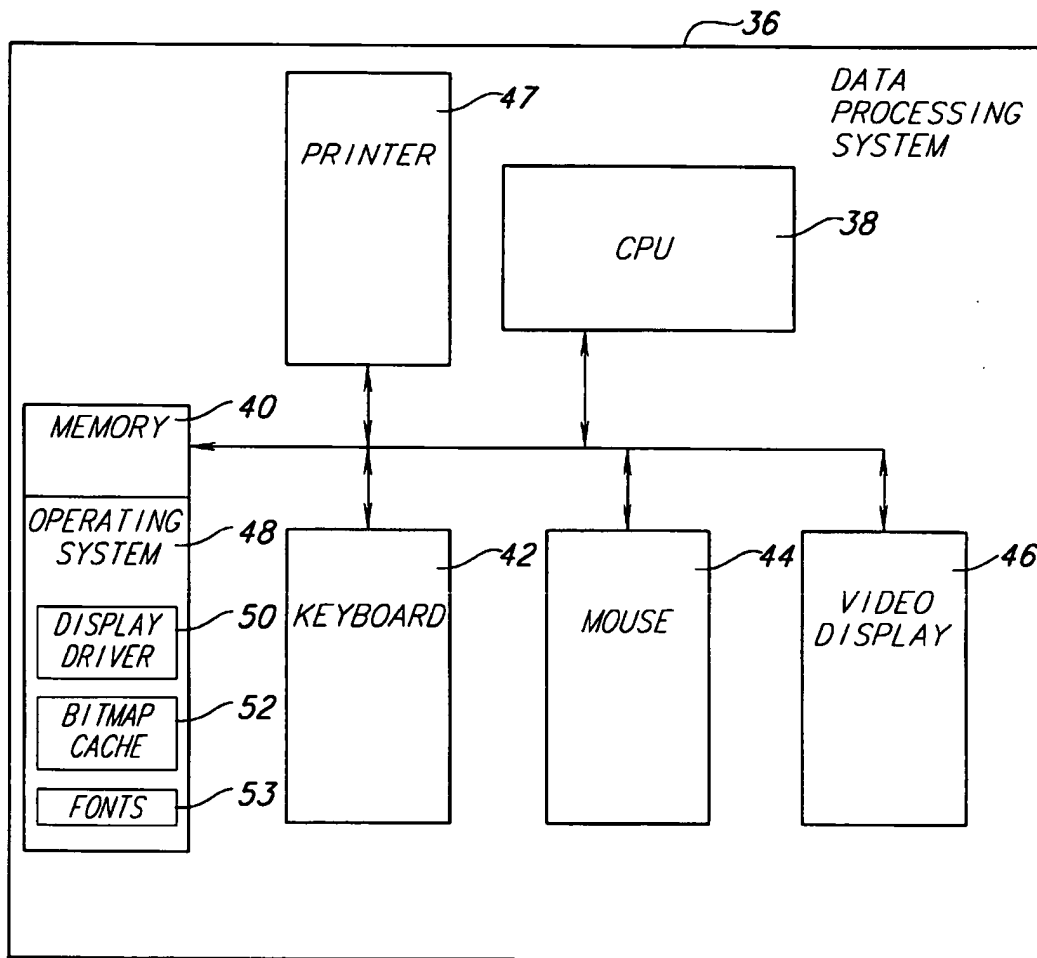


Figure 4

*Figure 3*

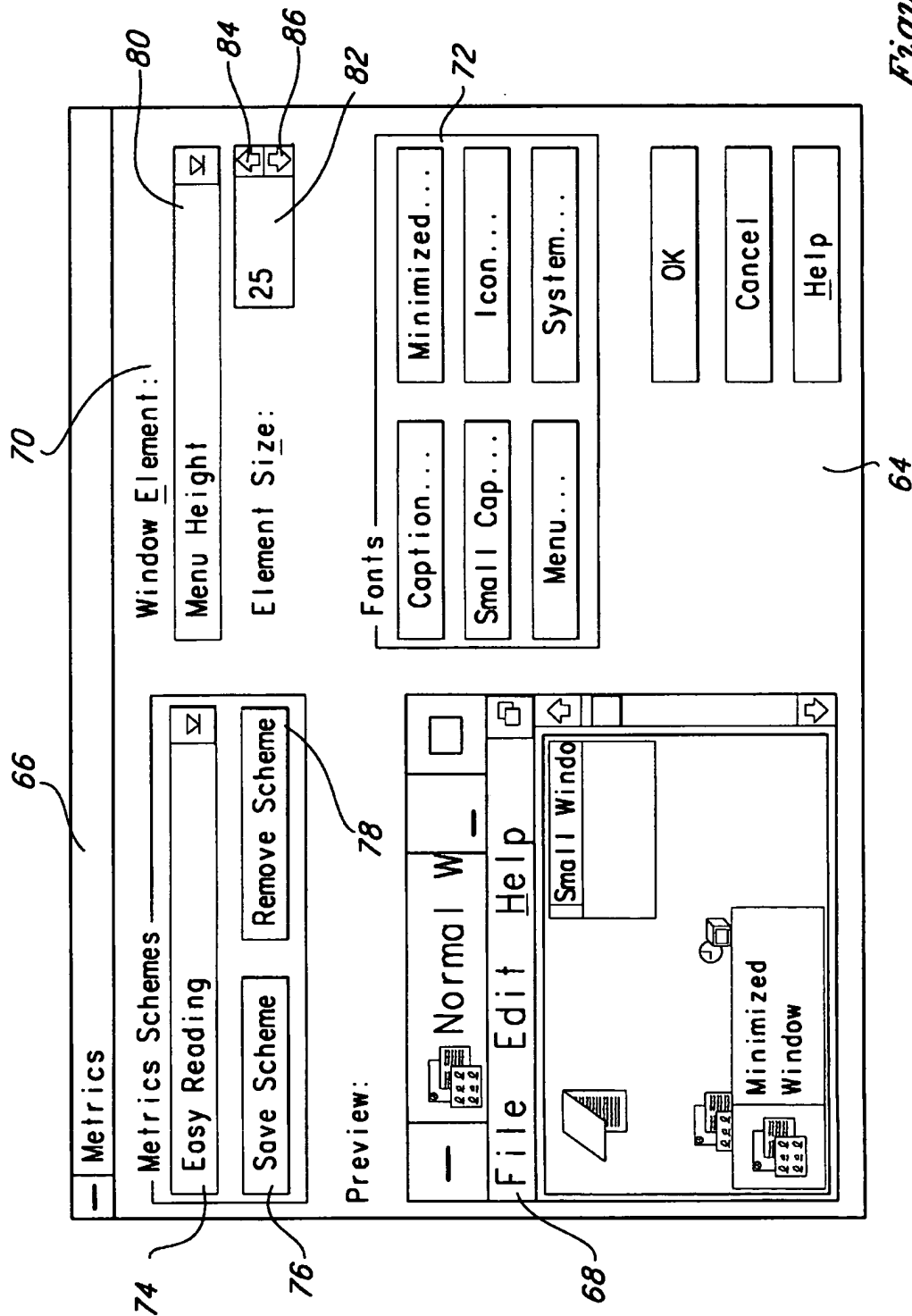
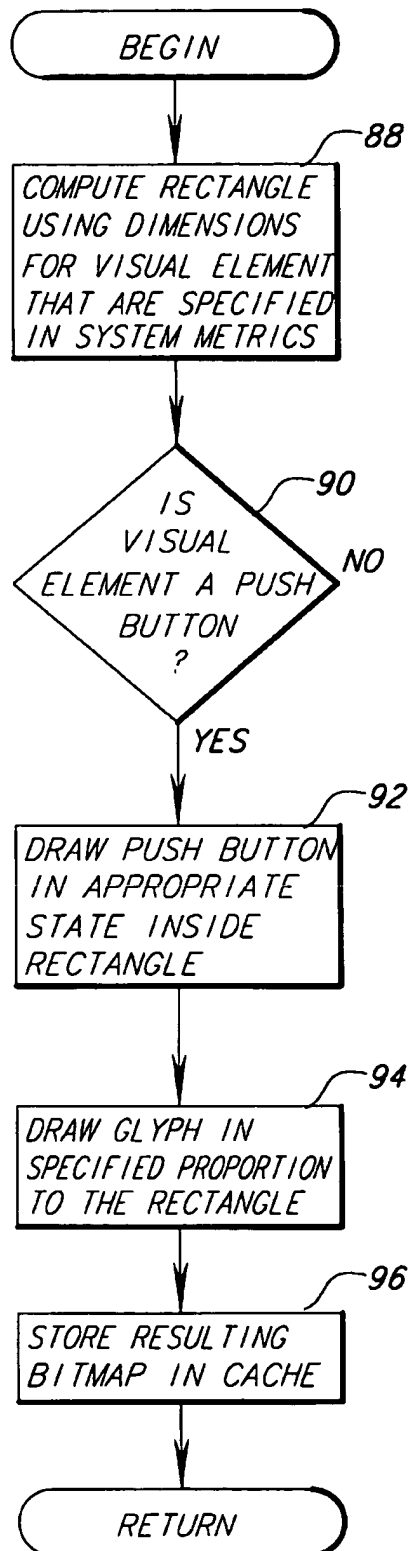


Figure 5

*Figure 6*

SYSTEM-PROVIDED WINDOW ELEMENTS HAVING ADJUSTABLE DIMENSIONS

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates generally to data processing systems and, more particularly, to user interfaces for data processing systems.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The WINDOWS, Version 3.1, Operating System, sold by Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Washington, provides resources to application programs for generating windows on a visual display. In particular, the operating system provides bitmaps for the window elements. As a result, every window that is generated by the application programs has a similar appearance. In order to understand what kind of bitmaps the operating system stores for window elements, it is helpful to first review what kind of elements are typically included in a window.

FIG. 1 shows an example of a typical window 10 generated by an application program. The window 10 includes a system menu box 12, which may be opened by a user to display a list of system commands available to the user. The window 10 also includes a caption or title bar 14 that displays a title or a caption for the application program that is executing. A menu bar 16 is included in the window 10 to display application commands that the user may perform in the current application. A minimize button 18 and a maximize button 20 are also provided in the window 10 to allow a user to minimize or maximize the size of the window. When maximized, the window 10 occupies most of the video display screen. When minimized, the window 10 appears as an icon. The window 10 also includes a sizing border 22 which may be dragged using a pointing device, such as a mouse, to adjust the size of the window 10. The window 10 additionally includes a client area 24 in which the application program may display output.

The window 10, likewise, includes scroll bars 26 for scrolling through the contents of a document that is displayed in the client area 24. A vertical scroll bar and a horizontal scroll bar are included in the window 10 of FIG. 1. Each of the scroll bars 26 includes a scroll box or a thumb 29 that travels the length of the scroll bar to indicate the current position of the displayed document that is shown in the client area 24 relative to the entire contents of the document being displayed. Scroll bar arrows 28 are provided at each end of the scroll bars 26. A user may click a mouse on the arrows at the respective ends to scroll the contents displayed on the screen in the direction of the arrow.

The operating system provides bitmaps for the system menu button 12, the minimize button 18, the maximize button 20, scroll bar arrows 28, and any check boxes, radio buttons, menu arrows or menu check marks that are included in the window. When the window 10 is resized, such as through dragging of sizing border 22 as described above, the window elements provided by the operating system do not change in size (except that in certain instances, the height of the vertical scroll bar 26 and the length of the horizontal scroll bar may change). Since these window elements provided by the operating system do not change when the window 10 is resized, the bitmaps for the window elements do not need to be updated after the window is resized.

FIG. 2 is a flowchart illustrating the steps that are performed by the operating system to allow application programs to use the bitmaps for the system-provided elements

of a window. The bitmaps are initially stored in a display driver for the video display. The display driver is typically part of the operating system and must comply with standards that permit its use in the operating system. During initialization of the operating system, the display driver is loaded into memory (step 30). The bitmaps held in the display driver are then transferred using the BitBlt() function into a cache (step 32). Subsequently, when an application program wishes to draw a window on the video display, the application program retrieves the bitmaps from the cache and uses the bitmaps to draw the system-provided window elements (step 34).

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention, a method is practiced in a data processing system that has an output device, such as a video display or printer, a memory means holding a copy of an operating system that includes a bitmap of a window element and a processor running the operating system. In this method, the bitmap of the window element is re-drawn to have a new size in response to a request by a user. The re-drawn bitmap is stored as part of the operating system in the memory means. The re-drawn bitmap is then used to output the window element on the output device as part of a window. The window element may be any of a number of different system-provided window elements, including a system menu, a minimize box, a maximize box, or a scroll bar arrow.

In this method, the user may be given a prompt that is output by the output device to request the user to select the new size for the bitmap of the window element. The generation of the prompt may involve generating a dialog box that exhibits a current choice by the user for a size of the bitmap of the window element. Moreover, a preview of how the window element appears when given the current choice for the size of the bitmap of the window element may also be output on the output device. Still further, the re-drawn bitmap may be stored in a cache that is part of the operating system. The re-drawn bitmap may then be retrieved from the cache to output the window element on the output device.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, a method is practiced wherein a cache of bitmaps for window elements are stored as part of the operating system in the memory means. Each bitmap has a certain size. Each time that a user requests a change in the size of one of the bitmaps of the window elements to a new size, new bitmaps are stored in the cache. The new bitmaps include a bitmap of the new size for the window element that the user requested to be changed. The window element that the user requests to change may be, for instance, a system menu, a minimize box, a maximize box, or a scroll bar arrow.

In accordance with yet another aspect of the present invention, a method is practiced wherein a window of a specified size is output on the output device. The window includes visual elements of predetermined sizes that are specified by the operating system. The predetermined size that the operating system specifies for a select one of the visual elements is changed to a new size in response to a request by the user. The new size specified by the operating system is then used to output the visual element as the new size in the window without changing the specified size of the window.

In accordance with a further aspect of the present invention, a method is practiced wherein sets of values for system metrics are stored in the memory means. The system metrics specify dimension information about bitmaps of

window visual elements that are stored in the operating system. The user is provided with a choice of selecting one of the sets of values of system metrics. In response to the choice by the user, bitmaps for the window visual elements are generated to have the dimensions that are specified by the dimension information of the set chosen by the user. These bitmaps are stored in the memory means as part of the operating system. The bitmaps stored in the memory means may then be used to output a window on the output device that includes the window visual elements.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a diagram of a conventional window.

FIG. 2 is a flowchart illustrating how a conventional system obtains bitmaps for system-provided window elements.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of a data processing system suitable for practicing a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a flowchart illustrating the steps that are performed by the preferred embodiment of the present invention to provide adjustable size window elements.

FIG. 5 is a diagram of a dialog box for adjusting the sizes of system-provided window elements in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 6 is a flowchart illustrating how new bitmaps for window elements are drawn in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A preferred embodiment of the present invention allows a user to customize the size of window elements provided by an operating system ("system-provided window elements"). The window elements may be used by the operating system as well as application programs that are run on the operating system. The size of the system-provided window elements may be adjusted independently of the window size.

FIG. 3 shows a block diagram of data processing system 36 suitable for practicing the preferred embodiment of the present invention. The data processing system includes a central processing unit (CPU) 38, a memory 40, a keyboard 42, a mouse 44 and a video display 46. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the present invention need not be practiced in a single processor system but rather may also be practiced in a multiple processor system, such as a distributed system. Further, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the data processing system may include alternative input/output devices that differ from those shown in FIG. 3.

The memory 40 holds a number of items, including a copy of an operating system 48. The operating system 48 in the preferred embodiment of the present invention is an embellished version of the Microsoft WINDOWS, Version 3.1, Operating System that supports such resizing of system-provided window elements. Nevertheless, those skilled in the art will recognize that other operating systems may be used in the present invention. The operating system 48 includes at least one display driver 50 and a bitmap cache 52 for storing the bitmaps of the system-provided window elements. The operating system 48 also includes a number of fonts 53 for use by the operating system and application programs.

FIG. 4 is a flowchart illustrating an overview of the steps performed by the preferred embodiment of the present invention to facilitate resizing of system-provided window

elements. The display driver or drivers for output devices, such as the video display 46 or the printer 47 (FIG. 1) are loaded into the memory 40 (Step 54 in FIG. 4). The bitmaps are then transferred using the BitBlt() function (such as described in the Background of the Invention) from the display drivers to the bitmap cache 52 (step 56).

The preferred embodiment of the present invention allows the user to change at least one dimension of each system-provided window element (step 58 in FIG. 4) by using a dialog box 64, like that shown in FIG. 5. The dialog box 64 includes a section 66 that concerns metrics schemes, a section 68 that concerns a preview of window elements, a section 70 concerning system-provided window elements and a section 72 concerning fonts.

Before discussing the dialog box 64 in more detail, it is helpful to review what "system metrics" are in the operating system 48. The system metrics, among other things, hold information about the size of system-provided window elements. The system metrics include the following that relate to window elements:

SM_CXSCREEN	Screen width in pixels
SM_CYSCREEN	Screen height in pixels
SM_CXVSCROLL	Vertical scroll arrow width
SM_CXHSCROLL	Horizontal scroll arrow height
SM_CYCAPTION	Caption bar height
SM_CXBORDER	Window border width
SM_CYBORDER	Window border height
SM_CXDLGFRAME	Dialog window frame width
SM_CYDLGFRAME	Dialog window frame height
SM_CXVTHUMB	Vertical scroll thumb height
SM_CXHTHUMB	Horizontal scroll thumb width
SM_CXICON	Icon width
SM_CYICON	Icon height
SM_CXCURSOR	Cursor width
SM_CYCURSOR	Cursor height
SM_CYMENU	Menu bar height
SM_CXFULLSCREEN	Full screen client area width
SM_CYFULLSCREEN	Full screen client area height
SM_CYKANJIWINDOW	Kanji window height
SM_CXVSCROLL	Vertical scroll arrow height
SM_CXHSCROLL	Horizontal scroll arrow width
SM_CXMIN	Minimum window width
SM_CYMIN	Minimum window height
SM_CXSIZE	Minimize/Maximize icon width
SM_CYSIZE	Minimize/Maximize icon height
SM_CXFRAME	Window frame width
SM_CYFRAME	Window frame height
SM_CXICONSPACING	Horizontal icon spacing
SM_CYICONSPACING	Vertical icon spacing

Section 66 of the dialog box 64 allows a user to select a scheme from a list of pre-defined schemes that each specify a single unique set of values for the system metrics that relate to window elements. The user saves, deletes or selects a particular system metrics scheme using section 66 of the dialog box 64. As shown in FIG. 5, section 66 includes a drop down list box 74 that lists the system metrics schemes that are currently saved by the operating system 48. The drop down list box 74 is shown in the closed state in FIG. 5 and in the closed state, shows only the currently selected system metrics scheme. Examples of window elements that are generated in accordance with the currently selected system metrics scheme are displayed in section 68. In the example of FIG. 5, the currently selected system metrics scheme is the "Easy Reading" system metrics scheme, in which all of the system-provided window elements have large system metrics values, is displayed in large letters.

The operating system 48 provides a number of predefined system metrics schemes, but the user also has the option of saving additional system metrics scheme by pressing the

"Save Scheme" button 76. The user may initially begin with one of the previously saved system metrics schemes and then utilize section 70 of the dialog box 64 to further customize the size of particular system-provided window elements. The resulting system metrics values may be saved in a new scheme. Moreover, the user may remove a scheme from the list by pressing the "Remove Scheme" button 78.

Section 70 of the dialog box 64 (which concerns the system-provided window elements) includes a drop down list box 80 that holds a list of the system metrics for the system-provided window elements. The current size of the selected system metric is displayed in the "Element Size" box 82. In the example of FIG. 5, the "menu height" system metric is the currently selected system metric and the current menu height is "25". The user may click the mouse 44 on the upward arrow 84 to increase the element size and click the mouse on the downward arrow 86 to decrease the element size. In addition, the user may put the caret on the value and directly edit the value.

Referring once again to the flowchart of FIG. 4, the user requests a change in the dimension of the system-provided window element in step 58 by using the dialog box 64, as described above (FIG. 5). Subsequently, after the user has finalized the changes and exited the dialog box 64, the bitmaps stored in the bitmap cache 52 (FIG. 3) are re-drawn in response to the user request (step 60). In particular, every time that a user changes one of the system metrics for the system-provided window elements, the entire bitmap cache is re-drawn. The revised bitmap cache 52 may then be subsequently used to draw the system-provided window elements. The value selected for each of the system metrics persists until a new value is selected by the user.

The operating system 48 provides a separate routine for each system-provided window element to generate a new bitmap for the window element in step 60 of FIG. 4. Each time that the system metrics are changed, these routines are called to re-draw the bitmaps for the system-provided window elements. The routines operate quickly enough so that no substantial overhead is incurred in re-drawing the bitmaps that are stored in the bitmap cache 52. Although each of the routines has particularities that are unique to the nature of the system-provided window element which the routine draws, the basic approach of each of the routines is the same.

FIG. 6 is a flowchart showing the steps performed by these routines to draw the new bitmap of its corresponding window element. Initially, a rectangle is drawn to have the dimensions that are specified by fixed dimension values and a system metric value for the window element (step 88). For instance, the vertical scroll arrow width (e.g., SM_CXVSCROLL) is specified by a system metric and the vertical scroll arrow height is also specified by a system metric (i.e., SM_CYVTHUMB, because the thumb and scroll bar arrow have the same height). These values of the dimensions are used to compute a rectangle of the proper size for a vertical scroll arrow. The system then checks whether the visual element to be drawn is a push button (step 90). Push buttons are given special treatment because they may assume heights other than the zero level logical surface of the video display (i.e., they may not appear flat). Specifically, a push button may be raised or may be sunken below the zero level logical surface. Thus, if the visual element is a push button, the push button must be drawn in the appropriate state inside and including the rectangle (step 92). The push button may be drawn using conventional techniques. When the push button has been drawn or if the visual element is not a push button, a corresponding glyph

for the window element is drawn. The glyph is the visible part of a character or other graphical entity that is shown in a bitmap. For example, the arrow portion of the vertical scroll bar arrow 28 visual element (FIG. 1) constitutes a corresponding glyph. The glyph is drawn to have size that is in a specified proportion relative to the dimensions of the rectangle (step 94). The proportional size of a glyph to the rectangle is empirically defined and is chosen for each element to ensure its best appearance.

Once the bitmap for the system-provided visual element has been completely generated, the resulting bitmap is stored in the bitmap cache 52 (FIG. 3) along with the other bitmaps (step 96 in FIG. 6). Thus, the revised bitmap may be used in all future calls by the system or application programs to draw the corresponding system-provided window element on the video display 46 or printer 47.

When the present invention has been described with reference to a preferred embodiment thereof, those skilled in the art will appreciate that various changes in form and detail may be made without departing from the present invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a data processing system having an output device, a memory means holding an application program and an operating system and a processor for running the application program and the operating system, a method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing in the operating system standard window elements for windows for use by the operating system and the application program, wherein the operating system provides a bitmap of a given size for a selected one of the window elements;
- (b) in response to a request by a user to change the selected window element to a new size, storing a re-drawn bitmap for the selected window element to have the new size as part of the operating system in the memory means; and
- (c) using the re-drawn bitmap to output the selected window element with the output device as part of a window.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a prompt that is output by the output device to request the user to select the new size for the bitmap of the selected window element and, in response to the prompt, receiving the request by user to change the selected window element to the new size.

3. The method as recited in claim 2 wherein the step of generating the prompt further comprises the step of generating a dialog box that is output by the output device and that exhibits a current choice of a size of the bitmap for the selected window element.

4. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising the step of outputting by the output device a preview of how the selected window element appears when output with the output device to have the current choice of the size of the bitmap for the selected window element.

5. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the re-drawn bitmap in a cache that is part of the operating system.

6. The method as recited in claim 5 wherein the step of using the re-drawn bitmap to output the selected window element further comprises the step of retrieving the re-drawn bitmap from the cache and using the retrieved bitmap to output the selected window element with the output device as part of the window.

7. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected window element is a system menu button and the step of

storing the re-drawn bitmap of the selected window element further comprises the step of storing the re-drawn bitmap of the system menu button as part of the operating system in the memory means.

8. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected window element is a minimize button and the step of storing the re-drawn bitmap of the selected window element further comprises the step of storing the re-drawn bitmap of the minimize button as part of the operating system in the memory means.

9. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected window element is a maximize button and the step of storing the re-drawn bitmap of the selected window element further comprises the step of storing the re-drawn bitmap of the maximize button as part of the operating system in the memory means.

10. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected window element is a scroll bar arrow and the step of storing the re-drawn bitmap of the selected window element further comprises the step of storing the re-drawn bitmap of the scroll bar arrow as part of the operating system in the memory means.

11. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the output device is a video display and the step of using the re-drawn bitmap to output the selected window element with the output device as part of the window further comprises the step of using the re-drawn bitmap to output the selected window element with the video display as part of the window.

12. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the output device is a printer and the step of using the re-drawn bitmap to output the selected window element on the output device as part of the window further comprises the step of using the re-drawn bitmap to output the selected window element with the printer as part of the window.

13. In a data processing system having a memory means holding application programs and an operating system, a method, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing a cache of bitmaps for standard window elements for use by the application programs as part of the operating system in the memory means, each bitmap being of a certain size; and

(b) each time that a user requests a change in the size of one of the bitmaps of the standard window elements to a new size, storing new bitmaps in the cache, including a bitmap of the new size for the window element for which the user requested the change in the size.

14. The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising the step of using the bitmap of the new size to output the window element for which the user requested the change in size.

15. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the step of storing a cache of bitmaps for window elements further comprises the step of storing a bitmap for a system menu of a certain size, and when the user requests a change in the size of the bitmap for the system menu to a new size, the step of storing new bitmaps in the cache further comprises the step of storing a new bitmap of the new size for the system menu in the cache.

16. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the step of storing a cache of bitmaps for standard window elements further comprises the step of storing a bitmap for a minimize button of a certain size, and when the user requests a change in the size of the bitmap for the minimize button to a new size, the step of storing new bitmaps in the cache further comprises the step of storing a new bitmap of the new size for the minimize button in the cache.

17. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the step of storing a cache of bitmaps for standard window elements further comprises the step of storing a bitmap for a maximize button of a certain size, and when the user requests a change in the size of the bitmap for the maximize button to a new size, the step of storing new bitmaps in the cache further comprises the step of storing a new bitmap of the new size for the maximize button in the cache.

18. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the step of storing a cache of bitmaps for standard window elements further comprises the step of storing a bitmap for a scroll bar arrow of a certain size, and when the user requests a change in the size of the bitmap for the scroll bar arrow to a new size, the step of storing new bitmaps in the cache further comprises the step of storing a new bitmap of the new size for the scroll bar arrow in the cache.

19. In a data processing system having an output device and a processor running an application program and an operating system, a method, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing standard window elements in the operating system for use by the operating system and the application program;

(b) outputting a window of a specified size with the output device, said window including at least some of said standard window elements of predetermined sizes that are specified by the operating system;

(c) changing the predetermined size that is specified by the operating system for a selected one of the standard window elements to a new size that is specified by the operating system in response to a request by a user; and

(d) using the new size specified by the operating system to output the selected window element at the new size in the window with the output device without changing the specified size of the window.

20. The method as recited in claim 19 wherein the output device is a video display, the step of outputting the window of the specified size with the output device further comprises the step of outputting the window of the specified size with the video display and the step of using the new size specified by the operating system to output the selected window element at the new size in the window with the output device further comprises the step of using the new size specified by the operating system to output the selected window element at the new size in the window with the video display.

21. The method as recited in claim 19 wherein the output device is a printer, the step of outputting the window of the specified size with the output device further comprises the step of outputting the window of the specified size with the printer and the step of using the new size specified by the operating system to output the selected window element at the new size in the window with the output device further comprises the step of using the new size specified by the operating system to output the selected window element at the new size in the window with the printer.

22. The method as recited in claim 19 wherein the step of changing the predetermined size that is specified by the operating system for a selected one of the standard window elements further comprises the step of changing the predetermined size that is specified by the operating system for a system menu to a new size that is specified by the operating system in response to a request by the user.

23. The method as recited in claim 19 wherein the step of changing the predetermined size that is specified by the operating system for a selected one of the standard window elements further comprises the step of changing the predetermined size that is specified by the operating system for a minimize button to a new size that is specified by the operating system in response to a request by the user.

24. The method as recited in claim 19 wherein the step of changing the predetermined size that is specified by the operating system for a selected one of the standard window elements further comprises the step of changing the predetermined size that is specified by the operating system for a maximize button to a new size that is specified by the operating system in response to a request by the user.

25. The method as recited in claim 19 wherein the step of changing the predetermined size that is specified by the operating system for a selected one of the standard window elements further comprises the step of changing the predetermined size that is specified by the operating system for a scroll bar arrow to a new size that is specified by the operating system in response to a request by the user.

26. In a data processing system having a processor that runs an application program and an operating system having bitmaps of window visual elements for use by the application program and the operating system, a memory means holding a copy of the operating system and the application program and an output device, a method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing sets of values for system metrics in the memory means that specify dimension information about the bitmaps of window visual elements;

(b) providing a user with a choice of selecting one of the sets of values; and

(c) in response to the choice by the user, generating and storing in the memory means as part of the operating system bitmaps for the window visual elements having dimensions as specified by the dimension information of the set chosen by the user.

27. The method as recited in claim 26, further comprising the step of using the bitmaps stored in the memory means to output with the output device a window that includes the window visual elements.

28. The method as recited in claim 27 wherein the output device is a video display and the step of using the bitmaps for the window visual elements that are stored in the

memory means to output with the output device a window that includes the window visual elements further comprises the step of using the bitmaps for the window visual elements that are stored in the memory to output with the video display the window that includes the window visual elements.

29. The method as recited in claim 27 wherein the output device is a printer and the step of using the bitmaps for the window visual elements that are stored in the memory means to output with the output device a window that includes the window visual elements further comprises the step of using the bitmaps for the window visual elements that are stored in the memory means to output with the printer the window that includes the window visual elements.

30. A data processing system comprising:
an output device;

a storage device for holding an application program and an operating system, wherein said operating system includes:

(i) standard window elements for use by the operating system and the application program, said operating system providing a bitmap of a given size for a selected one of the window elements;

(ii) a facility for receiving user requests to change the selected window element to a new size;

(iii) a facility for storing in the storage device a re-drawn bitmap for the selected window element having the new size in response to the user request.

31. The data processing system of claim 30 wherein the operating system further comprises means for outputting the re-drawn bitmap to output the selected window element with the output device.

32. The data processing system of claim 30, the operating system further comprising a cache of bitmaps for the standard window elements for use by the application program and the operating system.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 5,977,966
DATED : November 2, 1999
INVENTOR(S) : J.L. Bogdan

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

<u>COLUMN</u>	<u>LINE</u>	<u>ERROR</u>
3	41	after "diagram of" insert --a--
4	67	"scheme" should read --schemes--
6 (Claim 2, line 5)	45	"by user" should read --by the user--

Signed and Sealed this

First Day of May, 2001

Attest:



NICHOLAS P. GODICI

Attesting Officer

Acting Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office